

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/649,673
Attorney Docket No.: Q77059

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2 and 17 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 5-8, 13-16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Morita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,892). Claims 2-4, 9-12 and 17-19 have been objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner has indicated that they contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 9-12 are now in allowable form.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and claim 2 has been canceled. Since claim 1 now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 2, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-8 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 17 and claim 17 has been canceled. Since claim 13 now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 17, claim 13 is allowable. Claims 14-16 and 18-20 depend from claim 13 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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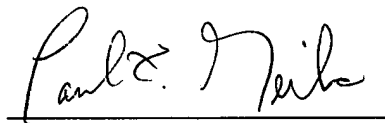
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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul F. Neils", is written over a horizontal line.

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